

## A MINORITY REPORT PROMISED FROM THE CANAL COMMISSION.

Statements Being Prepared to Be Presented to the President.

## THE SENATE COMMITTEE HEARS OFFICIALS OF THE OLD DARIEN ENTERPRISE AT TODAY'S MEETING.

The Question Referred to a Subcommittee for Consideration.

### GEN. SORREL BEGINS ARGUMENT.

Mr. Morgan Explains the Status of the Waterway Problem to His Associates—Matter of Title to the French Property Again Raised.

Two important meetings on the subject of isthmian canals were in progress today. The Isthmian Canal Commission, of which Admiral Walker is the head, continued its deliberations at its offices in the Corcoran Building, and the Senate committee of which Mr. Morgan is chairman met at the Capitol.

Under the law appointing the Commission it is to determine the most feasible and practicable route across the isthmus for a canal, under the control and management and ownership of the United States.

If the United States can neither control nor own absolutely the Panama Canal the Commission will be compelled to report against that project, no matter how cheap the proffer may seem.

### Two Reports Forthcoming.

The Commission will be in session all the afternoon and it is understood that it will present two reports to the President either today or tomorrow regarding the Panama project—a majority and a minority report. The majority will recommend the purchase of the Panama route, while the other, it is said, will

urge the rejection of the French proposition.

The question whether the United States can secure a full, clear and perfect title to the property of the French Canal Company, is the most important one which the Commission has to consider, it having already demonstrated that it is a feasible route for the canal.

### The Senate Committee Meets

The Senate Inter-oceanic Canal Committee was called together today by Senator Morgan and was in session nearly two hours. The various phases of isthmian canal legislation were earnestly discussed but no definite conclusions were reached.

The most important action taken was the appointment of a subcommittee consisting of Senators Harris, Foster of Louisiana and Kittredge to hear the arguments the advocates of the Mendano Canal Company desire to present in favor of their project. The chief representative of this route, generally known as the Darien Route, is General Sorrel, who gained fame as the engineer who built the Hoosac Tunnel.

General Sorrel's route contemplates tunneling through a granite mountain a distance of five and a half miles, to be 70 feet wide and 150 feet high.

### The Mendano Proposition.

The Mendano Canal Company claims its route to be the shortest and even with the stupendous tunnel to be dug that it can be built cheaper and more quickly than either the Nicaraguan or Panama routes, and it would have the additional advantage of being a sea level canal.

The subcommittee met in the room of the Inter-oceanic Canal Committee at 3 o'clock this afternoon to hear General Sorrel's argument.



LO! THE POOR INDIAN.

BIG CHIEF LALAPOLUSA: Me not use so much paint or so much hair as paleface squaw.

## LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION NOT TO BE THROWN OPEN TO THE WORLD UNTIL 1904.

Foreign Countries Unable to Make Good Exhibits at St. Louis in 1903.

The gates of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition will not swing open until 1904.

This has been decided by former Governor David R. Francis, president of the exposition, and Mr. Adolphus Busch, of St. Louis, chairman of the Exposition Committee on Foreign Relations.

After conferring with representatives of foreign governments in Washington for two days and learning that few of the countries would be able to send exhibits in 1903, they came to the conclusion that the opening of the exposition must be deferred a year.

"We could have held as great a fair in

1903 as was ever held anywhere in the world," said former Governor Francis as he left the White House after conferring with the President today, "but we can hold a greater fair than any in history if we postpone it for one year."

"We find that foreign governments can not place suitable exhibits at St. Louis in 1903."

### Japan's Fair Next Year.

"Japan is to hold a great national fair in 1903, but in 1904 can send their entire exhibit to us," put in Mr. Busch. "It is to be a world's fair and we desire to get complete official exhibits."

### Celebration in 1905.

"We will probably hold an immense celebration in St. Louis in 1905 in commemoration of the Louisiana Purchase and will open the exposition in 1904. We expect that the Crown Prince Wilhelm of

Germany will visit the exposition at that time."

The German Ambassador has been consulted with a view to arranging for Prince Henry to visit St. Louis on his present visit to this country. This matter has not, however, been yet arranged.

It is probable that some Congressional action will be found necessary in that the appropriations are made available in 1903.

A determined effort will be made to secure an additional appropriation of \$2,000,000.

## CHANGE TO METRIC SYSTEM.

Chairman Southard to Hear Others Than Scientists.

On the first Thursday in February the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures, of which Mr. Southard, of Ohio, is chairman, will take up for consideration the bill to establish the metric system. Chairman Southard said today:

"This subject of a change of the system of measures has been before Congress a great many times, and the committee has at various times reported favorably a bill to establish a metric system in all Government departments. Of course, if such a change is made it will inevitably follow that the commercial business of the country must gradually be altered too."

"Heretofore testimony as to the desirability of a change has been secured only from scientific people and the commercial interests have had no opportunity to express their views. I propose to give representatives of manufacturers, wholesale and retail merchants and all other industries a chance to be heard, and for this reason I have personally, and as chairman of the committee, invited those who are interested directly or indirectly to appear before us and express their views."

## ARRESTED ON THREE CHARGES OF FORGERY

FRANK NUSS ADMITS GUILT.

Insurance Solicitor Says He Must Have Been Out of His Mind When Alleged Crimes Were Committed—Hearing Tomorrow.

Frank W. Nuss, a former insurance solicitor, who, with his wife, lived at 305 Eleventh Street northeast, was arrested today by Detective Sergeants Parham and Flaherty on three charges of forgery.

He is said to have forged the signature of Dr. Charles Regan, U. S. N., of 2395 Fourteenth Street northwest, to 2 checks which he passed in this city. He admits the charges and says that he had been drinking and must have been out of his mind.

Nuss disappeared from his home in this city about a week ago and his wife appeared to the police to find him. Upon investigation it was found that he had passed a check drawn on the Washington Loan and Trust Company for \$19 on C. E. Engel, and a similar check for \$45 on Julius Engloff, of Ninth and A Streets northeast. With a companion he is said to have opened several bottles of wine in an Avenue saloon and then to have gone to Baltimore, where he engaged board at a small hotel for a week and passed a \$15 check in payment. At Police Headquarters Nuss stated that he did not know what signature he had attached to the Baltimore check.

He was arrested at his home this morning and is now locked up to await a preliminary hearing in the Police Court tomorrow.

From there he went to Camden, N. J., and telegraphed to his wife to join him. To her he told all of his troubles and on her advice returned to the city to face the charges.

He was arrested at his home this morning and is now locked up to await a preliminary hearing in the Police Court tomorrow.

## LARCENY OF A BAG OF DIAMONDS.

A Colored Woman Charged With Stealing \$1,700 Worth of Gems.

Alice Beckett, colored, thirty years old, is under arrest, charged with the larceny of \$1,750 worth of diamonds and other jewelry from Frank Adams, a clerk in the baggage room at the Pennsylvania depot. The woman denies all knowledge of the affair, but the officers say that she has a bad record and has served a sentence in the penitentiary.

About 1 o'clock yesterday morning Mr. Adams left the baggage room and went across the street to Lee's restaurant, 103 Sixth Street northwest, to get a lunch. Shortly after he left the Beckett woman was seen to enter the place, and subsequently a chamberlain bag in which Mr. Adams kept the jewels was found on the floor.

It was some hours later before Mr. Adams discovered his loss and reported it to the police.

## MR. PUGH DEFENDS HIS COURT RECORD.

Declares Charges of Mr. Shoemaker, Anti-Saloon League Attorney, Regarding Their Disposition to Be Unfounded.

Mr. James L. Pugh, Jr., Assistant City Solicitor, today forwarded to Mr. A. B. Duval, City Solicitor, a reply to the recent statement of Mr. A. E. Shoemaker, attorney for the Anti-Saloon League, to the District Commissioners, in which he expressed dissatisfaction with the Police Courts in the trial of alleged violators of the liquor laws.

In regard to the number of cases tried and the disposition of them since 1893 Mr. Pugh declares Mr. Shoemaker to be misinformed.

Record of the Dockets.

Mr. Pugh's letter in part is as follows: "The dockets of the court show that for this period, since 1893, I have filed a total number of 964 informations, and out of this number a verdict of guilty was rendered in 465; 259 acquittals, 23 continued cases for this length of time and 267 informations not pressed. Out of the number of convictions the court imposed fines in 286 cases and took the personal bonds of 79. From this showing made by the dockets of the Police Court Mr. Shoemaker certainly could not have given them very much of an examination."

"Now, in respect to the statement that cases have been postponed until witnesses could not be secured, I must say that for the time I have had charge of the court, nearly ten years, I never knew this to be true, and I defy Mr. Shoemaker or anyone else to name the case when this has occurred. It is simply not so."

Delays in Trials.

"Under the system prevailing in the court it is impossible to afford a trial on the day the defendant is arraigned and demands a trial by a jury. The jury trials obtain in the United States side of the court, regularly, and trials are as speedy in this branch of the judiciary of the District as in any other. In fact, the business of the court in this class of cases as well as in all other classes is up to date, and but few cases are awaiting trial."

## FOR CABLE BY GOVERNMENT.

Necessary in War, Priceless in Peace.

General Greely and Admiral Bradford Before the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce—Why Vice President of Clark, of the Western Union, Favors Government Control.

The Pacific cable question was again argued before the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce today. Mr. Thomas F. Clark, vice president of the Western Union Company, advocated a Government cable on the ground that a cable laid by the Commercial Cable Company would deprive the Western Union of all land business resulting from the cable, while a Government cable would divide it between the Western Union and Postal.

General Greely Replied.

Gen. Adolphus W. Greely Chief Signal Officer, U. S. A., spoke in favor of a Government cable, declaring it to be an absolute necessity in time of war and a thing beyond price in time of peace.

Cable activity in Germany, France, and England was now at its height, he said, and not less than 50,000 miles had been laid within a year.

Governments were realizing the necessity of controlling ocean cables and Germany and France had both laid important cables along the coast of China.

General Greely detailed the operations of the Government lines in the Philippines, where messages are sent from one end of the archipelago to the other at 4 cents per word. He said the late President McKinley agreed with him that its construction was a political necessity.

Admiral Bradford's Views.

Admiral Bradford submitted correspondence between Mr. J. J. Mackay and the State and Navy Departments on this subject and advised a Government cable.

England's cable system, he said, strengthened its navy as much as three or four ships, and was always considered in connection with its naval strength. If the United States and England should go to war today, he thought England could prevent us communicating with the Philippines by cable.

## ANTI-ANARCHY BILLS UP.

New Measure Presented by Attorney General Knox.

The House Committee on the Judiciary today began consideration of the various anti-anarchy bills presented, the more important ones being the Hay and the Jenkins bills.

A new bill has been presented by Attorney General Knox, which makes an assault on the President resulting fatally, a capital offense, the offender to be tried in the United States courts as the offense is declared to be directed not against an individual alone, but against the Government as well.

An assault that does not terminate fatally may be deemed a capital offense, within the discretion of the court.

## FRYE SHIP SUBSIDY BILL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

Favorably Reported to the Senate After a Brief Debate on Its Provisions.

## THE MEASURE ACCOMPANIED BY STATEMENT SHOWING OBJECTS AND POSSIBILITIES OF SCHEME.

General Improvement in Ocean Mail Service Is Contemplated.

### AMOUNT OF BOUNTIES STATED.

Explanation of the Proposed Law to Be Laid Before Congress—Encouragement to the American Boat Builders—The Matter Passed by a Strict Party Vote.

The Senate Commerce Committee was in session over three hours today discussing the Frye ship subsidy bill, and by a strict party vote decided to favorably report the measure.

For Maritime Supremacy.

The report which the committee will present to the Senate states that the purpose and reasonably certain results of the bill in ten years will be to establish the maritime supremacy of the United States in trade with Asia, and in the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean; to establish securely trade between the United States and South American Republics, and to give the United States a respectable representation on the North Atlantic. The report says:

"This bill will so extend shipbuilding as to transfer in time from abroad to the United States the centre of that industry as the centres of other industries recently have been transferred."

Finally, it will give to the United States a measure of maritime independence corresponding to our industrial and agricultural independence.

Postal Subsidy Provisions.

The postal subsidy provisions enable the Postmaster General to establish an American ocean mail system superior to the systems of Great Britain, France, and Germany. This policy was declared ten years ago. The bill corrects errors in the act of 1891 in the light of the decade's progress in shipbuilding and of changed

political and commercial relations of the United States with the rest of the world. It does not increase pay under existing mail contracts, some of which have ten years to run.

The American ocean mail system outlined contemplates on the Pacific weekly mail services to Hawaii, the Philippines, Japan, China and Hongkong, and a fortnightly service to Pago Pago, New Zealand and Australia. The maximum cost would be \$2,325,000. The services would be performed by American vessels in speed and tonnage far superior to those by which Great Britain, Germany and France now maintain mail connections with Asia and Australia at an annual expense of \$4,800,000.

### Improved Mail Service.

"On the Atlantic the bill contemplates semi-weekly mail services to Jamaica, Havana and Europe, weekly to Mexico, once in ten days to Venezuela, and fortnightly to Brazil at a maximum cost of \$2,365,000."

The establishment of this complete American ocean mail service, involving much shipbuilding, will require several years. It will render the United States as independent of foreign Powers for its ocean mail service as is Great Britain. The cost of the American service by American mail steamers will be \$1,700,000; the cost of the British and Colonial service by British mail steamers is \$4,700,000. Receipts from ocean postage by the United States are now estimated at \$2,000,000. The annual deficit under the new American system proposed, including minor services, will be about \$2,000,000. The annual deficit under the British and Colonial system is \$2,185,000."

The report compares in detail American services proposed with British services, and asserts that the bill will revolutionize in American favor as against the Suez route the world's ocean mail connections with China and Japan and will affect Australian connections. Continuing, the report says:

"The measure will give the United States forty-two auxiliary merchant cruisers, compared with Great Britain's fifty. "Even if expenses of the American ocean

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## FIRST PLUNGE OF KAISER'S YACHT, METEOR II, FIXED FOR FEBRUARY 25 AT HIGH TIDE.

Committee Named to Extend Welcome to Royal Guest on His Arrival.

The date of the launching of Emperor William's new yacht, Meteor II, has been fixed for February 25, at 10:30 a. m., the hour of full tide. The State Department will prepare a list of official guests for the occasion and the invitations will be sent out by the firm.

By arrangements perfected today between President Roosevelt and the German Ambassador, the following officials have been chosen to constitute the committee for the reception of Prince Henry:

### To Welcome Royalty.

Dr. David J. Hill, Assistant Secretary of State; Gen. Henry C. Corbin, Adjutant General U. S. A.; Count Quadt, of the German Embassy; Col. Theodore A. Bingham, and Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans.

The President will send a personal representative to meet Prince Henry on his arrival in this country. This representative has not yet been appointed.

### Several Conferences Held.

Three announcements were made officially this afternoon after a conference between the officials interested and Mr. Wallace Downey, of the firm which is building the new boat. When the latter called at the White House this morning he was referred by President Roosevelt to Dr. David Jayne Hill, Assistant Secretary of State, as the official in charge of preparations for the reception of the prince.

### Officials Discuss Plans.

Accordingly the yacht builder met there Dr. Hill, Rear Admiral Evans, Rear Admiral Crowninshield, and Lieutenant Commander J. W. Miller, retired, who had command of the Naval Reserves of the State of New York during the war with Spain. The latter is now a resident of New York city, and socially interested in the approaching reception.

The gentlemen discussed matters in-

formally. The Meteor falls of buoyancy until she draws nine feet of water and must have fourteen feet for the plunge from the steps. The hour of high tide on February 25 was therefore chosen. The launching can be accomplished with safety only at that time. A luncheon for the invited guests will follow.

### Itinerary of the Prince.

The conference also discussed the itinerary of the prince, and his escort, but will not decide matters finally until the wishes of the German Ambassador are learned.

Prince Henry will reach America, it is calculated, February 22, and it is the present purpose to have him come direct to Washington to remain until the day of the launching.

### Two Routes to the Launching.

Two routes have been suggested for the trip to the shipyard, Shooter's Island, New York. One is to go to the Battery at New York and there take an army transport or one of the navy yard boats to the desired point, a trip of nine miles.

Another suggestion is to stop the train at a place three-quarters of a mile distant from the navy yard and convey the party overland by carriages. No choice between the two routes has yet been made.

### Admiral Evans at the Embassy.

After the meeting Admiral Evans left the State Department to consult the German Embassy. It is the wish of Gustav H. Schwab, president of the North German Lloyd, that the steamer Kron Prinz, which brings Prince Henry to this country from at one side of the public pier at Thirty-fourth Street, Hoboken, and the Hohenzollern tie up on the other side.

In his charge of the ceremonies will probably accede to this request.

Mr. Downey stated that he had been most cordially welcomed by the President, who manifested great enthusiasm over Prince Henry's visit. This, Mr. Downey concluded, was sufficient contradiction of the report that the prince's visit was not only unsought by the Administration, but was really embarrassing.

Refers to Society Women.

The society ladies of Washington, she declared, had never done anything for the industrial women of the city.

Chairman Mercer informed Mrs. Smith that it was against the policy of the Government to allow the use of its land for such purposes, and suggested that there was plenty of private land which could easily be acquired for the temporary uses of the league.

## EARTHQUAKE KILLS SIX HUNDRED

Great Loss of Life in Chilpancingo, Mexico.

CITY OF MEXICO, Jan. 17.—According to advices received here yesterday's earthquake did great damage in the town of Chilpancingo, State of Guerrero. Many buildings were destroyed. It is estimated that 600 people were killed. Many others were injured.

## PLAN EXHIBIT OF WOMAN'S HANDIWORK

BUILDING WANTED FOR DISPLAY.

Mrs. Charlotte Smith, President of Women's Industrial League, Appears Before the Committee on Public Grounds.

Mrs. Charlotte Smith appeared before the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds this morning to urge a request for permission to erect a temporary building on public land in Washington in which to hold an exhibit of women's handiwork.

Mrs. Smith said she was the president of the Women's Industrial League of the United States, representing 25,000 women, who wanted an opportunity to hold an exposition to show men what they can do as bread winners and creators of wealth.

Women, she said, were making nails in Pittsburgh for \$3 to \$5 a week. She thought when they did equal labor they should have equal wages.

The purpose of the league now was,

## INVESTIGATING A HOTEL FIRE.

Proprietor and Housekeeper in Police Custody.

FLAMES IN ALL ROOMS BUT ONE.

John W. Green, of Green's Hotel, and Mamie Strong, His Housekeeper, Locked Up—Police Find Queer Things in Early Morning Blaze at the Hotel, Which Caused About \$2,500 Damages.

Pending a more thorough investigation of the circumstances attending the fire at an early hour this morning in the Hotel Green, the proprietor, John W. Green, and his housekeeper, Mamie Strong, are locked up, and it is estimated that another will also probably be taken into custody.

The hotel is a three-story brick building belonging to Representative Robert H. Hitt, of Illinois, and is located on the southwest corner of First and B Streets southeast.

The damage to the building and contents will exceed \$3,500. Green is said to have been the victim of several previous fires and some months ago reported that he had been held up and robbed in the Capitol grounds.

He carried \$2,000 insurance on the contents, and the loss on the building is also covered by insurance.

### Burst Forth Suddenly.

The fire was discovered about 5:20 o'clock this morning by Policeman Fitten, of the Fifth precinct. The flames seemed to burst suddenly from the rear of the building and in a moment had spread throughout the entire place.

The officer discovered, so far as it was possible to learn, there were but three people there at the time—Mr. Green,

the proprietor of the hotel, his housekeeper, and a young man named Collins. All were completely dressed and in the office on the front floor, the only room that was not burned.

### Few Changes Made.

Every room in the house was burning before the firemen arrived except the office, where the occupants had taken refuge.

A similar fire occurred in a third-floor back room of the house on January 8. This was of equally mysterious origin. It was discovered in the unoccupied room and seemed to have started in a bed. The bed was completely destroyed and a hole ten feet in diameter was burned in the floor.

### Letter That Tells of Ghosts.

An unfinished letter was found on the mantelpiece in the dining room directed to "Elise," which stated that it was impossible to keep servants in the place as it was haunted by a ghost that was said to have started the fire, but the writer did not believe that it had.

The latter further referred to its being impossible to keep negro servants in the house because of the ghost which went through the house at all hours of the night and gave flaming doors, lighting the gas where it was not wanted and putting it out where it was needed.

### NEELY TO TESTIFY TODAY.

Ex-Postal Clerk Will Himself Take Stand in Havana.

HAVANA, Jan. 17.—C. F. W. Neely, the ex-postoffice clerk who is on trial with Estes G. Rathbone for alleged misappropriation of postal funds takes the stand this afternoon.

Neely anticipates a severe arraignment, but says he is prepared for all comers. He refuses to express any opinion regarding Rathbone's testimony.

### GONE TO PAY RANSOM.

It Is Hoped That Miss Stone Will Now Shortly Be Free.

LONDON, Jan. 17.—According to Constantinople advices the chief dragoman of the American Legation and the Rev. Dr. Peet, secretary of the American mission, have left Serbia for the Bulgarian frontier, taking the ransom with them, in the hope of soon securing the release of Miss Stone and Mme. Tsikela.

### Members of the Party.

The personnel of the party will probably be: The President, Mrs. Roosevelt, Miss Alice Roosevelt, Miss Carey, Mr. J. K. Greco, and four or five members of the Cabinet, and it is possible some of the ladies of the Cabinet may be of the party.

## OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO THE CHARLESTON EXPOSITION.

Party to Leave Washington February 11, and Start for Home the Next Day.

The details of President Roosevelt's trip to the Charleston Exposition, which he will visit on February 12, were made public at the White House today, after a conference between Secretary Cortelyou, Mayor Smythe, and Messrs. J. F. Ficken and J. C. Hemphill.

While the plans are as yet entirely provisional, it is understood that the President and party will probably leave Washington so as